

Goldfields and Agricultural Region Water Supply Scheme (GAWS) Main Conduit Replacement - Yerbillion Project

Application Number: **02858**Commencement Date:
02/04/2025Status: **Locked**

1. About the project

1.1 Project details

1.1.1 Project title *

Goldfields and Agricultural Region Water Supply Scheme (GAWS) Main Conduit Replacement -

1.1.2 Project industry type *

Water Management and Use

1.1.3 Project industry sub-type

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1.1.4 Estimated start date *

01/06/2025

1.1.4 Estimated end date *

30/04/2027

1.2 Proposed Action details

1.2.1 Provide an overview of the proposed action, including all proposed activities. *

Water Corporation proposes to progressively replace the Goldfields and Agricultural Region Water Supply Scheme (GAWS) main conduit pipeline over an estimated 50-year period. These upgrades will ensure that it continues to meet the needs of the community and industry for years to come, and Kalgoorlie continues to be one of the industrial heartlands of the State. Replacement activities include sections of pipeline may be upgraded to new above-ground pipe, although it's the Water Corporation's intention to install new underground pipeline wherever possible. Replacement of pipelines involves clearing of native vegetation, groundwater dewatering to facilitate installation (where required), minor earthworks and associated supporting ancillary activities.

Studies have been undertaken to group sections of the pipelines to enable these progressive upgrades, with this grouping of pipelines section being prioritised to collectively deliver to Water Corporation's customers the greatest volume increase in the shortest timeframe to deliver on the Western's Australia's State government commitment to commence works in mid-2025. This group of pipeline sections (PS) are referred to as the Yerbillion Project.

The Yerbillion Project (the proposed action) is comprised of the following pipeline sections (**PS**):

- Walgoolan PS 01 & 02; and
- Yerbillion Tank & PS 03.

The installation of the two pipeline sections (PS) of the Yerbillion Project (the proposed action) requires clearing within a Development Envelope (DE). The DE covers an area of 38.97 ha and is comprised of 8.97 ha of native vegetation and 30.00 ha of cleared land. Clearing of vegetation within the DE is required for the following purposes:

- Installation of the main conduit pipeline and other supporting (tie in) pipelines.
- Pumps stations (where required).
- Laydowns.
- Access tracks.
- Other supporting ancillary infrastructure.

Water Corporation has designed the pipeline alignment with a primary objective to minimise clearing and impacts to environmental values, via avoidance and utilising cleared, predominately agricultural land where possible. Water Corporation is committed to avoiding clearing of trees, and has carefully designed the PS to avoid trees within the DE, and will implement strict measures to retain trees on the within the DE, where possible.

Water Corporation is committed to avoiding clearing of suitable breeding and roosting trees for Carnaby's Cockatoo and TEC by excising these trees and TEC from the proposed action DE. A total of 9.55 ha of TEC has been avoided and is located outside of the DE. This includes avoidance of a patch of TEC (2.17ha) within the survey area. A total 7 suitable breeding trees with hollows and 44 suitable roosting trees at Walgoolan PS 01 & 02 and 21 suitable breeding trees with hollows and 85 suitable roosting trees at Yerbillion Tank & PS 03 were avoided.

The land tenure is land zoned as road reserves, with the remaining land comprising predominately already cleared agricultural land. The proposed action does not propose to change these land uses and the land will be reinstated to pre-construction land uses.

Exclusions

The removal of the GAWS main conduit pipeline was referred under the EPBC Act and it was determined a controlled action (EPBC 2019/8547) due to the controlling provisions being National Heritage values of a National Heritage place. The action for EPBC 2019/8547 was "to remove extant elements of the above ground pipeline forming part of the National Heritage Listed Goldfields Water Supply Scheme, extending

from Mundaring Weir to Kalgoorlie” and excluded the construction and installation of the replacement pipeline. This proposed action excludes to remove the extant elements of the above ground pipeline forming part of the Goldfields Water Supply Scheme.

There are two other groupings of PS, being the Merredin and Coolgardie Projects; these PS are excluded from the proposed action.

1.2.2 Is the project action part of a staged development or related to other actions or proposals in the region?

Yes

1.2.3 Is the proposed action the first stage of a staged development (or a larger project)?

Yes

1.2.5 Provide information about the staged development (or relevant larger project).

Water Corporation proposes to progressively replace the GAWS main conduit pipeline over an estimated 50-year period. Studies have been undertaken to group PS to enable these progressive upgrades, with this grouping of pipeline sections (**PS**) (Yerbillion Project) being prioritised. Prioritisation of Yerbillion Project aims to deliver to Water Corporation’s customers the greatest volume increase within the shortest timeframe, and to deliver on the Western’s Australia’s State government commitment to commence works in 2025.

Environmental approvals are currently being sought for three groups of PS, being:

- Merredin Project.
- Yerbillion Project (the proposed action)
- Coolgardie Project.

The Merredin group of pipeline sections (PS) were selected first, due to expedited environmental approval pathway (among other factors), to deliver on the Western’s Australia’s State government commitment to commence works in early 2025. This first group of PS did not have any significant impact on Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES) and referral to DCCEEW under the EPBC Act was not required.

The Coolgardie Project PS were grouped based on detailed engineering design and construction being scheduled for the next 5 to 10 years. Environmental surveys for the Coolgardie Project were undertaken alongside the Merredin Project and Yerbillion Project, however, as engineering designs are not yet available. Therefore, the environmental approval for the Coolgardie Project will not be sought for approximately 2 years time.

Water Corporation will undertake planning, design and engineering for remaining PS of the GAWS project progressively over the next 50 years and will submit environmental approvals applications accordingly.

1.2.6 What Commonwealth or state legislation, planning frameworks or policy documents are relevant to the proposed action, and how are they relevant? *

The proposed action will be executed in accordance with relevant State and Commonwealth legislation and policies.

Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act)

Water Corporation is referring this proposed action for legal certainty under the EPBC Act. The assessment undertaken concluded that the potential impacts on MNES are not significant impacts and considers the action to be “not a controlled action”. Refer to Att J – GAWS Yerbillion EPBC Act Referral – Significant Impact Assessment for the assessment of environmental impacts.

Environmental Protection Act 1986 (WA) (EP Act)

Water Corporation will meet with the WA Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) Services Branch to discuss the proposed action and demonstrate that the key environmental factors of the proposed action can be adequately assessed and addressed under Part V of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986 (EP Act)* via a Clearing Permit.

Water Corporation proposes to use the Clearing Permit CPS185/10 as the clearing authority for the proposed action under the EP Act, on the basis that the conditions of the permit are met. One pertinent condition is that CPS185/10 can only be used where the proposed action is determined “not a controlled action” under the EPBC Act.

Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 (WA) (BC Act)

An application to the Minister for authorisation under section 45 of the BC Act to the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (**DCBA**) to modify a threatened ecological community (**TEC**) listed under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 (WA) (BC Act)* is not required, due to no disturbance to the Eucalypt Woodlands of the WA Wheatbelt TEC.

Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914

Water Corporation will apply for a 5C Licence to Take Groundwater under the *Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914* for dewatering activities during construction, as required.

Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972 (WA)

Water Corporation's has undertaken surveys on the land for Aboriginal heritage and native title assessment and will progressively survey the pipeline route over the next 50 years as engineering progressively along the entire GAWS route. Water Corporation will negotiate with the Traditional Owners of the land and obtain approvals as required.

1.2.7 Describe any public consultation that has been, is being or will be undertaken regarding the project area, including with Indigenous stakeholders. Attach any completed consultation documentations, if relevant. *

The proposed action is defined as Major Works under S. 133, Part 6 of the *Water Services Act 2012* whereby the Water Corporation is required to ensure the following stakeholder consultation is conducted at a minimum:

- Letters to stakeholders, landowners and occupiers;
- Website advertising; and
- Ministerial Authorisation.

Water Corporation is committed to ongoing stakeholder communication, engagement and consultation throughout the planning, approvals, delivery and operations phases of the proposed action and beyond of the legislated requirements under the *Water Services Act 2012*.

The Corporation have been consulting with a number of key stakeholders throughout project planning and will continue to consult throughout the delivery of the project. Consultation has been conducted with, but not limited to, the following stakeholders:

- All property owners.
- Local authorities; Shire of Yilgarn, Shire of Westonia, Shire of Merredin.
- Traditional Owners.
- Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER).
- EPA.
- Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH).
- Main Roads WA (MRWA).

Water Corporation's heritage management requirements, and the necessary approvals required under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972*, will be based upon the outcomes of the heritage surveys.

1.3.1 Identity: Referring party

Privacy Notice:

Personal information means information or an opinion about an identified individual, or an individual who is reasonably identifiable.

By completing and submitting this form, you consent to the collection of all personal information contained in this form. If you are providing the personal information of other individuals in this form, please ensure you have their consent before doing so.

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1.3.1.1 Is Referring party an organisation or business? *

Yes

Referring party organisation details

ABN/ACN	28003434917
Organisation name	WATER CORPORATION
Organisation address	629 Newcastle Street, Leederville WA 6007

Referring party details

Name	Lisa Wynne
Job title	Team Leader - Environmental Approvals
Phone	(08) 9420 2843
Email	environment@watercorporation.com.au
Address	629 Newcastle Street, Leederville WA 6007

1.3.2 Identity: Person proposing to take the action

1.3.2.1 Are the Person proposing to take the action details the same as the Referring party details? *

Yes

Person proposing to take the action organisation details

ABN/ACN 28003434917

Organisation name WATER CORPORATION

Organisation address 629 Newcastle Street, Leederville WA 6007

Person proposing to take the action details

Name Lisa Wynne

Job title Team Leader - Environmental Approvals

Phone (08) 9420 2843

Email environment@watercorporation.com.au

Address 629 Newcastle Street, Leederville WA 6007

1.3.2.14 Are you proposing the action as part of a Joint Venture? *

No

1.3.2.15 Are you proposing the action as part of a Trust? *

No

1.3.2.17 Describe the Person proposing the action's history of responsible environmental management including details of any proceedings under a Commonwealth, State or Territory law for the protection of the environment or the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources against the Person proposing to take the action. *

The magnitude of Water Corporation's operations across the State of WA and diversity of the natural environment it operates within is vast. Water Corporation has been responsible for the safe treatment and distribution of drinking water; collection, treatment and disposal of domestic wastewater; and the transport of drainage water in WA for over 100 years.

Water Corporation has had no actions brought against it in relation to its environmental performance under Commonwealth legislation.

Recent EPBC Act proposals include:

- 2023/09661: Talbot Road Asbestos Water Supply Pipe Decommissioning Project
- 2023/09698: Burrup Peninsula Seawater Supply Scheme Upgrade
- 2023/09702: Wanneroo South Groundwater Source Bores
- 2023/09597: Broome Water Supply Borefield Bushfire Mitigation Program
- 2023/09447: Logue Brook Dam Stage 2 Remedial Works
- 2022/09377: Serpentine Pipehead Dam Embankment Remedial Works
- 2022/09275: Land Clearing for Guilderton Sovereign Hill Water Pipeline
- 2022/9153: Cocos West Island Seawater Desalination Plant
- 2021/8936: CW01016 Collie Allanson 6ML Storage and Pipeline, Collie, Western Australia
- 2021/8915: Lennox Weir Removal
- 2020/8794: Onslow Seawater Desalination Plant Marine Geophysical Investigation
- 2020/8680: Broome Borefield Bushfire Mitigation Program
- 2019/8572: Yule Brook Main Drain Flood Mitigation Works
- 2019/8547: Goldfields Water Supply Scheme Project
- 2019/8454: Perth Desalination Plant 2
- 2019/8453: Alkimos Seawater Desalination
- 2018/8239: Pipeline Extension Hazelmere and Helena Valley, WA
- 2018/8224: Alkimos Seawater Desalination Plant Offshore Investigations
- 2017/8059: Greenbushes to Kirup Link
- 2017/7932: Vasse Diversion Drain upgrade
- 2016/7786: Groundwater Replenishment Scheme Stage 2

1.3.2.18 If the person proposing to take the action is a corporation, provide details of the corporation's environmental policy and planning framework

Water Corporation operates in accordance with an Environmental Management System that is certified to AS/ISO 14001:2015. The system has been externally certified since 2008. The system includes processes and standards to ensure that Water Corporation complies with its environmental obligations, prevents pollution and improves its environmental performance. This commitment for responsible environmental management is demonstrated in the range of evidence for excellence in environment performance, including the Climate Adaptation Award from the Banksia Environmental Foundation (2013), the Earth Awards (2011) for the Walkington Avenue Community Verge Garden Project (Margaret River), the Prime Minister's Award (2004) for environmental excellence in public sector management, the WA Premiers Award (2004), the 2003 Australian Greenhouse Office Gold Award and the United Nations Association of Australia World Environment Day Award 2004 for excellence in marine and coastal management (Att H - Environment Policy).

1.3.3 Identity: Proposed designated proponent

1.3.3.1 Are the Proposed designated proponent details the same as the Person proposing to take the action? *

No

1.3.3.2 Is Proposed designated proponent an organisation or business? *

Yes

Proposed designated proponent organisation details

ABN/ACN	28003434917
Organisation name	WATER CORPORATION
Organisation address	629 Newcastle Street, Leederville WA 6007

Proposed designated proponent details

Name	Carlos Castellanos
Job title	Senior Project Manager, Assets Delivery
Phone	0457 524 783
Email	carlos.castellanos@watercorporation.com.au
Address	629 Newcastle Street, Leederville WA 6007

1.3.4 Identity: Summary of allocation

✔ Confirmed Referring party's identity

The Referring party is the person preparing the information in this referral.

ABN/ACN	28003434917
Organisation name	WATER CORPORATION
Organisation address	629 Newcastle Street, Leederville WA 6007
Representative's name	Lisa Wynne
Representative's job title	Team Leader - Environmental Approvals
Phone	(08) 9420 2843
Email	environment@watercorporation.com.au
Address	629 Newcastle Street, Leederville WA 6007

✔ Confirmed Person proposing to take the action's identity

The Person proposing to take the action is the individual, business, government agency or trustee that will be responsible for the proposed action.

Same as Referring party information.

✔ Confirmed Proposed designated proponent's identity

The Person proposing to take the action is the individual or organisation proposed to be responsible for meeting the requirements of the EPBC Act during the assessment process, if the Minister decides that this project is a controlled action.

ABN/ACN	28003434917
Organisation name	WATER CORPORATION
Organisation address	629 Newcastle Street, Leederville WA 6007
Representative's name	Carlos Castellanos
Representative's job title	Senior Project Manager, Assets Delivery
Phone	0457 524 783
Email	carlos.castellanos@watercorporation.com.au

Address

629 Newcastle Street, Leederville WA 6007

1.4 Payment details: Payment exemption and fee waiver

1.4.1 Do you qualify for an exemption from fees under EPBC Regulation 5.23 (1) (a)? *

No

1.4.3 Have you applied for or been granted a waiver for full or partial fees under Regulation 5.21A? *

No

1.4.5 Are you going to apply for a waiver of full or partial fees under EPBC Regulation 5.21A?

No

1.4.7 Has the department issued you with a credit note? *

No

1.4.9 Would you like to add a purchase order number to your invoice? *

No

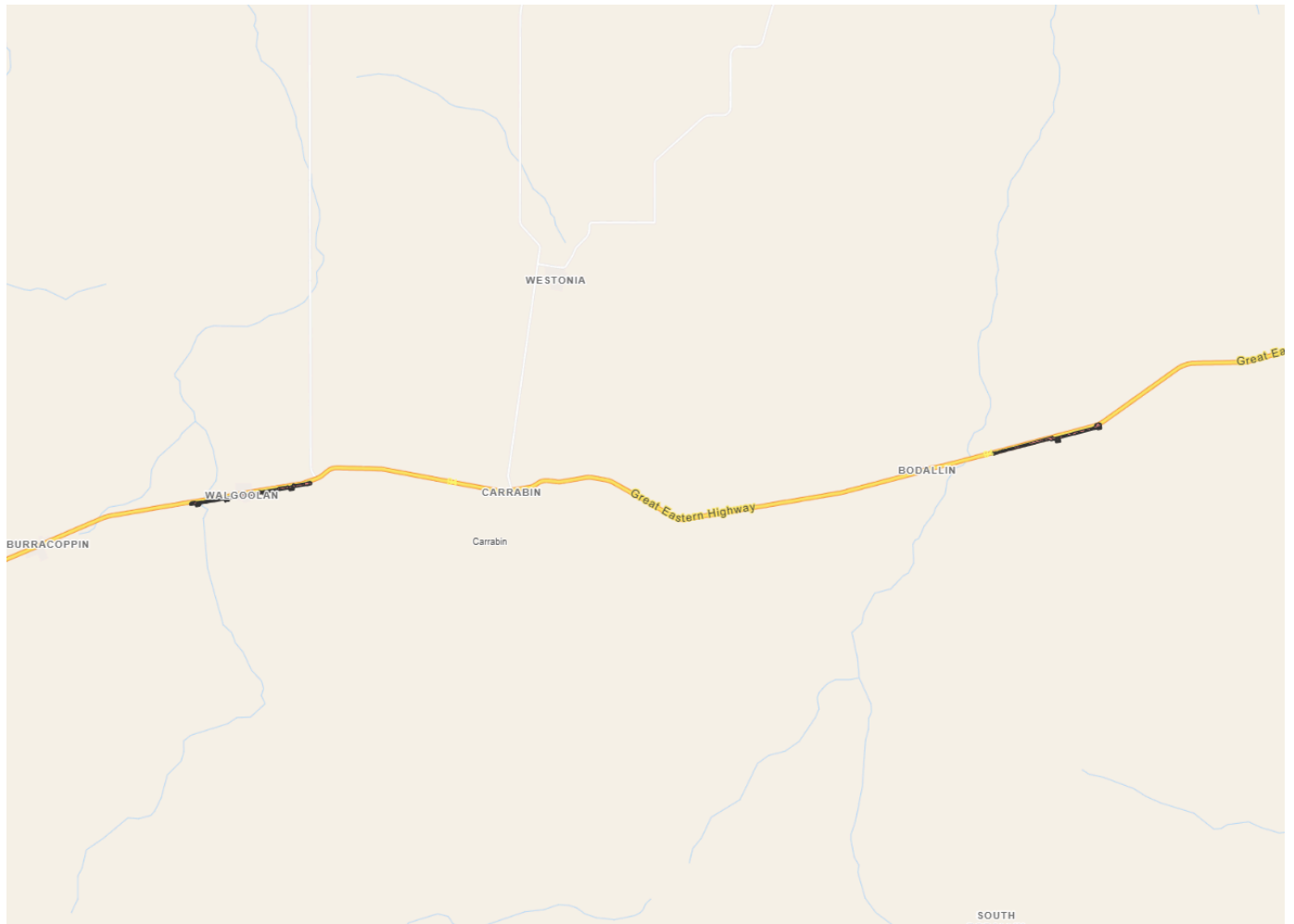
1.4 Payment details: Payment allocation

1.4.11 Who would you like to allocate as the entity responsible for payment? *

Proposed designated proponent

2. Location

2.1 Project footprint



Project Area: 39.01 Ha Disturbance Footprint: 9.00 Ha

2.2 Footprint details

2.2.1 What is the address of the proposed action? *

Walgoolan and Yerbillion, Western Australia.

2.2.2 Where is the primary jurisdiction of the proposed action? *

Western Australia

2.2.3 Is there a secondary jurisdiction for this proposed action? *

No

2.2.5 What is the tenure of the action area relevant to the project area? *

The land tenure within the DE of Walgoolan PS 01 & 02 and Yerbillion Tank & PS 03 are outlined below:

Walgoolan PS 01 & 02

- Crown land (Lot 7) 12 Walgoolan South Road, WALGOOLAN 6422 (parcel P202000 7 on DP 202000) (Land ID 1903554).
- Crown land (Lot 8) 31 Harrison Street, WALGOOLAN 6422 (parcel P202000 8 on DP 202000) (Land ID 1903555).
- Crown land Lot 9 (parcel P202000 9 on DP 202000) (Land ID 1903556).
- Crown land Lot 927 (parcel P180049 927 on DP 180049) (Land ID 1904258).
- Reserve R 33908 (Land ID 3073562).
- Railway (Land ID 3173893).
- Freehold Lot 30 (parcel P035033 30 on DP 35033) (Land ID 3266717).
- Freehold Lot 31 (parcel P035033 31 on DP 35033) (Land ID 3266718).
- Behsman Street (Land ID 3453074).
- Woolgar Street (Land ID 3453083).
- Lot 302 (parcel P059846 on DP 59846 Road (Land ID 3765162).
- P Road (Land ID 3742363).
- P Road (Land ID 3745058).
- P Road (Land ID 3745059).
- P Road (Land ID 3745060).
- P Road (Land ID 3745061).
- P Road (Land ID 3745062).
- P Road (Land ID 3745067).
- P Road (Land ID 3745068).

Yerbillion Tank & PS 03

- Lot 553 (parcel P425340 553 on DP 425340) (Land ID 30228852).
- Lot 554 (parcel P425343 554 on DP 425343) (Land ID 30228854).
- Lot 555 (parcel P425343 555 on DP 425343) (Land ID 30228855).
- Unallocated Crown land (Land ID 3107548).
- Lot 202 (parcel P054438 202 on DP 54438) (Land ID 3658950).
- Lot 205 (parcel P054439 205 on DP 54439) (Land ID 3659013).
- Lot 206 (parcel P054439 206 on DP 54439) (Land ID 3659014).
- Great Eastern Highway (Land ID 3744945).
- Road (Land ID 3744948).
- Road (Land ID 3744949).
- Road (Land ID 4056400).
- Unallocated Crown land (Land ID 4556806).
- Unallocated Crown land (Land ID 4556850).
- Unallocated Crown land (Land ID 4556851).

3. Existing environment

3.1 Physical description

3.1.1 Describe the current condition of the project area's environment.

Vegetation communities

The surveys undertaken on the proposed action identified the following vegetation communities (**Att C – Figure 3 Vegetation Communities**). 77% of all ground disturbance is proposed on already cleared land, followed by 2.62 of VT01 and 2.42 ha of VT03. A total of 2.68 ha of VT01 and VT24 is located within the DE, representing vegetation type is consistent with the EPBC TEC Eucalyptus Woodlands of the Western Australian Wheatbelt.

See **Table 2 - Vegetation Communities**

Vegetation Condition

The condition of vegetation within the DE in **Table 3 - Vegetation Condition** and presented in **Att D – Figure 4 Vegetation Condition**. Disturbance for the proposed action is expected to occur on predominately cleared land (30 ha or 77 % of the DE) followed by degraded land (6 ha or 15 % of the DE). The proposed action has maximised disturbance on already cleared land (77% of the indicative disturbance) to minimise impacts to better condition vegetation.

Threatened Ecological Community

The PMST search results indicated both PS are located within the Eucalypt Woodlands of the Western Australian Wheatbelt, which is a Threatened Ecological Community (TEC) (Critically endangered) listed under the EPBC Act. DCBA mapping for generalised locations of threatened ecological communities protected under the BC Act and priority ecological communities indicates both PS sections intersect the Eucalypt woodlands of the Western Australian Wheatbelt Priority Ecological Community (PEC), listed as a priority 3 under the WA BC Act, or its buffer (**Att E – Figure 5 Eucalypt Woodlands of the Western Australian Wheatbelt TEC**):

The survey (GHD 2025 - **Att K – Biological Survey Report Part 1 - 7**) identified the vegetation community VT01 and VT24 as representative of Eucalypt Woodlands of the Western Australian Wheatbelt TEC within the survey area. The field assessment included an assessment of the vegetation to confirm whether the mapped areas represent the EPBC listed Eucalypt Woodlands of the WA Wheatbelt TEC, using the criteria presented in the Threatened Species Scientific Committee Approved Conservation Advice (including listing advice) for the Eucalypt Woodlands of the Western Australian Wheatbelt and Priority ecological communities for Western Australia.

Eucalypt Woodlands of the WA Wheatbelt TEC (EPBC Act: Critically Endangered) is defined as eucalypt woodlands occurring in the Merredin, Katanning and Western Mallee IBRA Sub-regions of WA. Small outlying patches may extend into adjacent areas. The Eucalypt Woodlands of the WA Wheatbelt TEC as defined by Threatened Species Scientific Committee (TSSC) a number of key diagnostic characteristics that are required to be met:

- The structure of the community is a woodland in which the minimum crown cover of the tree canopy in a mature woodland is 10 %.
- The key species of the tree canopy are species of Eucalyptus that are typically single trunked. One or more of the tree species as identified in Table 2a of the Approved Conservation Advice are dominant or co-dominant. If other species are present in the tree canopy (e.g. species identified in Table 2b of TSSC or other taxa) then these collectively do not occur as dominants in the tree canopy
- A native understory is present, but is of variable composition, being a combination of grasses, other herbs and shrubs.
- The minimum condition, mature tree density and patch size thresholds are met as outlined in Table 3 of TSSC.

The assessment against the criteria for a TEC resulted in a 2.17 ha patch of TEC. The design of the pipeline was changed to avoid this TEC and the patch is now located outside of the DE (**Att E – Figure 5 Eucalypt Woodlands of the Western Australian Wheatbelt TEC**). No impacts to the Eucalypt Woodlands

of the Western Australian Wheatbelt TEC are expected as a result of the proposed action. The proposed action is located across the following soils:

Walgoolan PS 01 and 02

- Tandegin System soil landscape system: Sandplain dominated interfluves with weakly indurated lateritised crests and upper slopes and long colluvial yellow sandplain upper to lower slopes. Unlateritised surfaces dominated by sodic and alkaline duplex soils.

Yerbillion Tank & PS 03

- Baladjie System: Valley floors and lower slopes, in the northern Zone of Ancient Drainage, with calcareous loamy earth and alkaline red loamy duplex (mostly shallow). Woodland.
- Tandegin System: Sandplain dominated interfluves with weakly indurated lateritised crests and upper slopes and long colluvial yellow sandplain upper to lower slopes. Unlateritised surfaces dominated by sodic and alkaline duplex soils.

3.1.2 Describe any existing or proposed uses for the project area.

Walgoolan PS 01 & 02: The DE is located on land zoned as road reserves, with the remaining land comprising predominately already cleared agricultural land.

Yerbillion Tank & PS 03: The DE is located on land zoned as road reserves, is located on native vegetation zoned as Crown land with the remaining land comprising predominately already cleared agricultural land.

The proposed action does not propose to change these land uses and the land will be reinstated to pre-construction land uses.

3.1.3 Describe any outstanding natural features and/or any other important or unique values that applies to the project area.

The Walgoolan PS 01 & 02 DE intersects minor tributaries and a significant stream of the Yilgarn River. Whilst this PS is not within a floodplain, these watercourses are non-perennial (characterised by not having a consistent flow throughout the year) and likely to contain water in wet periods.

There are no other outstanding natural features or other important or unique values relevant to the proposed action.

3.1.4 Describe the gradient (or depth range if action is to be taken in a marine area) relevant to the project area.

The existing ground elevation profile of the pipeline sections is mostly flat, with a maximum gradient of 1.3%. The topography of the Walgoolan PS 01 & 02 DE is slightly undulating and slightly sloping downhill with an overall grade change of -1.3%. The topography at Yerbillion Tank & PS 03 is generally rising uphill with a maximum slope of 1.3% and an overall grade change of <1%.

The proposed action will not be undertaken in a marine area.

3.2 Flora and fauna

3.2.1 Describe the flora and fauna within the affected area and attach any investigations of surveys if applicable.

The following environmental surveys were conducted for the proposed action:

- 360 Environmental, 2021, Goldfields Agricultural Region Pipeline Maintenance Biological Surveys. Prepared for Water Corporation.
- GHD 2024, Biological assessment reconnaissance flora and vegetation survey, basic fauna survey and targeted Black Cockatoo habitat survey.
- Biological assessment Detailed and Targeted Flora and Vegetation Survey, Basic Fauna Survey and Targeted Black Cockatoo Habitat Survey (GHD, 2025). The GHD (2025) report compiles the findings of all previous surveys undertaken for the DE and is attached as **Att K – Biological Survey Report_Part 1 to Part 7**.

The findings of the 360 Environmental (2021), GHD (2024) and GHD (2025) surveys were used to determine the location and placement of the replacement pipeline, where environmental values were identified and subsequently avoided in the design process. The GHD (2025) survey area was broader than the DE for the proposed action, so the pipeline alignment could avoid any environmental values identified in the survey. The survey area in the GHD (2025) therefore does not match the DE of the proposed action, and the proposed action DE avoids all environmental values identified, where possible.

The scope of these survey reports includes all PS for Merredin, Yerbillion and Coolgardie Projects. The assessment of environmental values for the proposed action is limited to Walgoolan PS 01 & 02 and Yerbillion Tank & PS 03.

Conservation Significant Flora

Conservation Significant Flora Desktop Assessment

Walgoolan PS 01 & 02: The Protected Matters Search Tool (PMST) (**Att I – PMST Search Results**) searches identified Resinous Eremophila (*Eremophila resinosa*) - listed as threatened (Endangered) species as known to occur within the DE and Varnish Bush (*Eremophila viscida*) - listed as threatened (Endangered), as likely to occur in the DE. There were no additional species in the 1 km search results.

Yerbillion Tank & PS 03: The PMST searches identified Bodallin Poison (*Gastrolobium diabolophyllum*) listed as threatened (Critically Endangered) and Resinous Eremophila (*Eremophila resinosa*) listed as threatened (endangered) likely to occur within the DE. There were no additional species in the 1 km search results.

Conservation Significant Flora Field Assessment

No threatened species under the EPBC Act were recorded in the DE (**Att K – Biological Survey Report Part 1 - 7**).

Introduced Flora

No declared pests (s22) under the Western Australian *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act* (BAM Act) (2007) or Weeds of National Significance (WONS) were recorded in the DE.

Conservation Significant Fauna

Conservation Significant Fauna Desktop Assessment

Walgoolan PS 01 & 02

The PMST search results identified five threatened fauna species listed under the EPBC Act, that are either known to occur, or are likely to occur, within the Walgoolan PS 01 & 02 DE. These include:

- Carnaby's Black Cockatoo, Short-billed Black-cockatoo (*Zanda latirostris*) listed as threatened (Endangered) (listed as *Calyptrorhynchus latirostris*). PMST search results state breeding likely to occur within area.
- Malleefowl (*Leipoa ocellata*) listed as threatened (Vulnerable).

- Southern Whiteface (*Aphelocephala leucopsis*) listed as threatened (Vulnerable).
- Red-tailed Phascogale, Red-tailed Wambenger, Kenngoor (*Phascogale calura*) listed as threatened (Vulnerable).
- Shield-backed Trapdoor Spider, Black Rugose Trapdoor Spider (*Idiosoma nigrum*) listed as threatened (Vulnerable).

The PMST search results for migratory species identified Fork-tailed Swift (*Apus pacificus*), listed as migratory marine bird, as likely to occur within area. There were no additional species, likely to occur in the DE, identified within the 1 km search results.

No significant fauna species were recorded within the DE of the proposed action during the surveys (**Att K – Biological Survey Report Part 1 - 7**).

Yerbillion Tank & PS 03

The PMST searches and government databases identified threatened fauna species, listed under the EPBC Act, that are known or likely to occur within the Yerbillion Tank & PS 03 DE:

- Carnaby's Black Cockatoo, Short-billed Black-cockatoo (*Zanda latirostris*) listed as threatened (Endangered) (listed as *Calyptrorhynchus latirostris*). PMST search results state breeding likely to occur within area.
- Malleefowl (*Leipoa ocellata*) listed as threatened (Vulnerable).
- Southern Whiteface (*Aphelocephala leucopsis*) listed as threatened (Vulnerable).
- Shield-backed Trapdoor Spider, Black Rugose Trapdoor Spider (*Idiosoma nigrum*) listed as threatened (Vulnerable).

The PMST search results for migratory species identified Fork-tailed Swift (*Apus pacificus*) listed as migratory marine bird as likely to occur within area. There were no additional species, likely to occur in the DE, identified within the 1 km search results.

Conservation Significant Fauna Field Assessment

No significant fauna species were recorded within the DE of the proposed action during the surveys. Malleefowl (*Leipoa ocellata*) was recorded in the surveys (at Walgoolan PS03), which is not within the DE.

Fauna Habitat Assessment

The surveys undertaken on the proposed action identified the following fauna habitats and EPBC listed threatened species likely to occur within these habitat units (**Att B – Figure 2 Fauna Habitats**). The majority (77%) of all ground disturbance is proposed with areas of cleared land, followed by 3.62 ha of HAB01 (9% of all ground disturbance) which is suitable habitat for Carnaby's Black Cockatoo. The quality of foraging habitat for Carnaby's Black Cockatoo was assessed as low quality, with a score of 4. Of this 3.62 ha of low-quality foraging habitat:

- 2.85 ha is degraded condition.
- 0.77 ha is good condition.

See **Table 1 - Fauna Habitat**

3.2.2 Describe the vegetation (including the status of native vegetation and soil) within the project area.

Vegetation communities

The surveys undertaken on the proposed action identified the following vegetation communities (**Att C – Figure 3 Vegetation Communities**). 77% of all ground disturbance is proposed on already cleared land, followed by 2.62 of VT01 and 2.42 ha of VT03. A total of 2.68 ha of VT01 and VT24 is located within the DE, representing vegetation type is consistent with the EPBC TEC Eucalyptus Woodlands of the Western Australian Wheatbelt.

See **Table 2 - Vegetation Communities**

Vegetation Condition

The condition of vegetation within the DE in **Table 3 - Vegetation Condition** and presented in **Att D – Figure 4 Vegetation Condition**. Disturbance for the proposed action is expected to occur on predominately cleared land (30 ha or 77 % of the DE) followed by degraded land (6 ha or 15 % of the DE). The proposed action has maximised disturbance on already cleared land (77% of the indicative disturbance) to minimise impacts to better condition vegetation.

Threatened Ecological Community

The PMST search results indicated both PS are located within the Eucalypt Woodlands of the Western Australian Wheatbelt, which is a Threatened Ecological Community (TEC) (Critically endangered) listed under the EPBC Act. DCBA mapping for generalised locations of threatened ecological communities protected under the BC Act and priority ecological communities indicates both PS sections intersect the Eucalypt woodlands of the Western Australian Wheatbelt Priority Ecological Community (PEC), listed as a priority 3 under the WA BC Act, or its buffer (**Att E – Figure 5 Eucalypt Woodlands of the Western Australian Wheatbelt TEC**):

The survey (GHD 2025 - **Att K – Biological Survey Report Part 1 - 7**) identified the vegetation community VT01 and VT24 as representative of Eucalypt Woodlands of the Western Australian Wheatbelt TEC within the survey area. The field assessment included an assessment of the vegetation to confirm whether the mapped areas represent the EPBC listed Eucalypt Woodlands of the WA Wheatbelt TEC, using the criteria presented in the Threatened Species Scientific Committee Approved Conservation Advice (including listing advice) for the Eucalypt Woodlands of the Western Australian Wheatbelt and Priority ecological communities for Western Australia.

Eucalypt Woodlands of the WA Wheatbelt TEC (EPBC Act: Critically Endangered) is defined as eucalypt woodlands occurring in the Merredin, Katanning and Western Mallee IBRA Sub-regions of WA. Small outlying patches may extend into adjacent areas. The Eucalypt Woodlands of the WA Wheatbelt TEC as defined by Threatened Species Scientific Committee (TSSC) a number of key diagnostic characteristics that are required to be met:

- The structure of the community is a woodland in which the minimum crown cover of the tree canopy in a mature woodland is 10 %.
- The key species of the tree canopy are species of Eucalyptus that are typically single trunked. One or more of the tree species as identified in Table 2a of the Approved Conservation Advice are dominant or co-dominant. If other species are present in the tree canopy (e.g. species identified in Table 2b of TSSC or other taxa) then these collectively do not occur as dominants in the tree canopy
- A native understory is present, but is of variable composition, being a combination of grasses, other herbs and shrubs.
- The minimum condition, mature tree density and patch size thresholds are met as outlined in Table 3 of TSSC.

The assessment against the criteria for a TEC resulted in a 2.17 ha patch of TEC. The design of the pipeline was changed to avoid this TEC and the patch is now located outside of the DE (**Att E – Figure 5 Eucalypt Woodlands of the Western Australian Wheatbelt TEC**). No impacts to the Eucalypt Woodlands

of the Western Australian Wheatbelt TEC are expected as a result of the proposed action.

3.3 Heritage

3.3.1 Describe any Commonwealth Heritage Places Overseas or other places recognised as having heritage values that apply to the project area.

The DE includes the existing GAWS main conduit pipeline. The removal of the GAWS main conduit pipeline was referred under the EPBC Act and it was determined a controlled action (EPBC 2019/8547) due to the controlling provisions being National Heritage values of a National Heritage place. The action for EPBC 2019/8547 was “to remove extant elements of the above ground pipeline forming part of the National Heritage Listed Goldfields Water Supply Scheme, extending from Mundaring Weir to Kalgoorlie” and excluded the construction and installation of the replacement pipeline. This proposed action excludes to remove the extant elements of the above ground pipeline forming part of the Goldfields Water Supply Scheme.

No other Heritage Sites or places recognised as having heritage values are located within the DE.

3.3.2 Describe any Indigenous heritage values that apply to the project area.

Water Corporation has undertaken surveys on the land for Aboriginal heritage and native title assessment alongside the environmental surveys. The remainder of the pipeline route will be surveyed over the next 50 years as the engineering designs progressively become available along the entire GAWS route. Based on information to date, there are no Indigenous heritage values within the DE. Should any human skeletal or cultural material be discovered whilst undertaking the proposed action, there is an obligation under section 15 of the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972* to record and lodge site information with DPLH. All works will cease immediately, and additional care be taken at the scene.

3.4 Hydrology

3.4.1 Describe the hydrology characteristics that apply to the project area and attach any hydrological investigations or surveys if applicable. *

A minor tributary and a significant stream of the Yilgarn River run through the Walgoolan PS 01 & 02 DE. There are three minor, non-perennial watercourses intersecting the DE Yerbillion Tank & PS 03.

PMST search results and government database searches concluded both DEs of the proposed action are not located in any Geomorphic, Important or RAMSAR wetlands.

The following government databases identified the DE is not within a floodplain area.

- FPM Floodplain Area (DWER-020).
- FPM Historical Floodplain Area (DWER-124).
- FPM 1 in 100 (1%) AEP Floodway and Flood Fringe Area (DWER-014).
- FPM 1 in 100 (1%) AEP Floodplain Development Control Area (DWER-003).
- FPM Special Development Condition Area (DWER-024).
- FPM Levee Banks (DWER-021).
- FPM 1 in 100 (1%) AEP Floodway and Flood Fringe Line (DWER-015).
- FPM Flood Level Contours (m AHD) (DWER-018).
- FPM Map Index (DWER-023).
- FPM Historical Extent of Flooding (DWER-123).
- FPM Extent of Flooding (DWER-017).
- FPM Historical Flood Levels (m AHD) (DWER-122).

4. Impacts and mitigation

4.1 Impact details

Potential Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES) relevant to your proposed action area.

EPBC Act section	Controlling provision	Impacted	Reviewed
S12	World Heritage	No	Yes
S15B	National Heritage	No	Yes
S16	Ramsar Wetland	No	Yes
S18	Threatened Species and Ecological Communities	Yes	Yes
S20	Migratory Species	No	Yes
S21	Nuclear	No	Yes
S23	Commonwealth Marine Area	No	Yes
S24B	Great Barrier Reef	No	Yes
S24D	Water resource in relation to large coal mining development or coal seam gas	No	Yes
S26	Commonwealth Land	No	Yes
S27B	Commonwealth Heritage Places Overseas	No	Yes
S28	Commonwealth or Commonwealth Agency	No	Yes

4.1.1 World Heritage

You have identified your proposed action will likely directly and/or indirectly impact the following protected matters.

A direct impact is a direct consequence of an action taken – for example, clearing of habitat for a threatened species or permanent shading on an ecological community as the result of installing solar panels.

An indirect impact is an 'indirect consequence' such as a downstream impact or a facilitated third-party action.

—

4.1.1.1 Is the proposed action likely to have any direct and/or indirect impact on any of these protected matters? *

No

4.1.1.3 Briefly describe why your action is unlikely to have a direct and/or indirect impact.

*

No World Heritage Sites or Commonwealth Heritage Sites occur within, or in proximity to, the proposed action, and as such, no impact to World or Commonwealth heritage sites is expected.

4.1.2 National Heritage

You have identified your proposed action will likely directly and/or indirectly impact the following protected matters.

A direct impact is a direct consequence of an action taken – for example, clearing of habitat for a threatened species or permanent shading on an ecological community as the result of installing solar panels.

An indirect impact is an 'indirect consequence' such as a downstream impact or a facilitated third-party action.

Direct impact	Indirect impact	National heritage
No	No	Goldfields Water Supply Scheme, Western Australia

4.1.2.1 Is the proposed action likely to have any direct and/or indirect impact on any of these protected matters? *

No

4.1.2.3 Briefly describe why your action is unlikely to have a direct and/or indirect impact.

*

The PMST search results indicated the DE contains the Goldfields Water Supply Scheme (GWSS) which is a National Heritage Place (Place ID 106007) listed under the EPBC Act). The removal of the pipeline was referred under the EPBC Act and it was determined a controlled action (EPBC 2019/8547) due to the controlling provisions being National Heritage values of a National heritage place. The action for EPBC 2019/8547 was “to remove extant elements of the above ground pipeline forming part of the National Heritage Listed Goldfields Water Supply Scheme (GWSS), extending from Mundaring Weir to Kalgoorlie”. The impacts to removal of the heritage place are already approved and not part of the scope of this application.

4.1.3 Ramsar Wetland

You have identified your proposed action will likely directly and/or indirectly impact the following protected matters.

A direct impact is a direct consequence of an action taken – for example, clearing of habitat for a threatened species or permanent shading on an ecological community as the result of installing solar panels.

An indirect impact is an 'indirect consequence' such as a downstream impact or a facilitated third-party action.

—

4.1.3.1 Is the proposed action likely to have any direct and/or indirect impact on any of these protected matters? *

No

4.1.3.3 Briefly describe why your action is unlikely to have a direct and/or indirect impact.

*

There are no RAMSAR Wetland within or in proximity to the proposed action and is not expected to have an impact on any RAMSAR Wetland.

4.1.4 Threatened Species and Ecological Communities

You have identified your proposed action will likely directly and/or indirectly impact the following protected matters.

A direct impact is a direct consequence of an action taken – for example, clearing of habitat for a threatened species or permanent shading on an ecological community as the result of installing solar panels.

An indirect impact is an 'indirect consequence' such as a downstream impact or a facilitated third-party action.

Threatened species

Direct impact	Indirect impact	Species	Common name
Yes	No	<i>Aphelocephala leucopsis</i>	Southern Whiteface
No	No	<i>Banksia dolichostyla</i>	Ironcaps Banksia, Ironcap Banksia
No	No	<i>Boronia adamsiana</i>	Barbalin Boronia
No	No	<i>Calidris acuminata</i>	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper
No	No	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>	Curlew Sandpiper
No	No	<i>Dasymalla axillaris</i>	Native Foxglove
No	No	<i>Dasyurus geoffroii</i>	Chuditch, Western Quoll
No	No	<i>Egernia stokesii badia</i>	Western Spiny-tailed Skink, Baudin Island Spiny-tailed Skink
No	No	<i>Eremophila resinosa</i>	Resinous Eremophila
No	No	<i>Eremophila viscida</i>	Varnish Bush
No	No	<i>Eucalyptus crucis</i> subsp. <i>crucis</i>	Silver Mallee
No	No	<i>Falco hypoleucos</i>	Grey Falcon
No	No	<i>Gastrolobium diabolophyllum</i>	Bodallin Poison
No	No	<i>Idiosoma nigrum</i>	Shield-backed Trapdoor Spider, Black Rugose Trapdoor Spider
No	No	<i>Leipoa ocellata</i>	Malleefowl
No	No	<i>Pezoporus occidentalis</i>	Night Parrot
No	No	<i>Phascogale calura</i>	Red-tailed Phascogale, Red-tailed Wambenger, Kenngoos
No	No	<i>Roycea pycnophylloides</i>	Saltmat
Yes	No	<i>Zanda latirostris</i>	Carnaby's Black Cockatoo, Short-billed Black-cockatoo

Ecological communities

Direct impact	Indirect impact	Ecological community
No	No	Eucalypt Woodlands of the Western Australian Wheatbelt

4.1.4.1 Is the proposed action likely to have any direct and/or indirect impact on any of these protected matters? *

Yes

4.1.4.2 Briefly describe why your action has a direct and/or indirect impact on these protected matters. *

The proposed action has the potential to impact habitat for Carnaby's Black Cockatoo and Southern Whiteface. The impacts to these threatened species are not considered significant to determine the proposed action a controlled action.

Environmental values for threatened species (also presented in Table 4)

Walgoolan PS 01 & 02

Carnaby's Black Cockatoo Foraging habitat (low quality) **0.85 ha**, Suitable breeding trees with hollows (number of trees) **1**, Suitable roosting trees without hollows (number of trees) **3**.

Southern Whiteface foraging habitat **3.26 ha**

Yerbillion Tank & PS 03

Carnaby's Black Cockatoo Foraging habitat (low quality) **2.77 ha**, Suitable breeding trees with hollows (number of trees) **0**, Suitable roosting trees without hollows (number of trees) **6**.

Southern Whiteface foraging habitat **5.18 ha**

TOTAL

Carnaby's Black Cockatoo Foraging habitat (low quality) **3.62 ha**, Suitable breeding trees with hollows (number of trees) **1**, Suitable roosting trees without hollows (number of trees) **9**.

Southern Whiteface foraging habitat **8.44 ha**

Carnaby's Cockatoo (*Zanda latirostris*)

The assessment of significance of impacts to Carnaby's Black Cockatoo was assessed according to the DAWE (2022) *Referral guideline for 3 WA threatened black cockatoo species*. The guideline requires referral under the EPBC Act for greater than 10 ha of low quality foraging habitat and the loss of one or more known or suitable nesting trees. The proposed action comprises 3.62 ha of low quality habitat (score of 4) which is less than 10 ha of the referral criteria. The habitat present within the survey area is not considered to provide significant foraging value or be critical to the survival of this species.

The proposed action also comprises impacts to 1 suitable breeding tree with hollows and 9 suitable roosting trees without hollows. The DEs for the proposed action are located next to suitable breeding and roosting trees which can be used by Carnaby's Cockatoo. The surveys undertaken on neighbouring land indicates 7 suitable breeding trees with hollows and 44 suitable roosting trees at Walgoolan PS 01 & 02 and 21 suitable breeding trees with hollows and 85 suitable roosting trees at Yerbillion Tank & PS 03 (**Att F – Figure 6 Black Cockatoo habitat**). Clearing of 3.62 ha of foraging habitat, including 10 suitable breeding or roosting trees is not likely to impact the habitat for Carnaby's Cockatoo given the presence of 51 suitable breeding and roosting trees retained at Walgoolan PS 01 & 02 and 106 suitable breeding and roosting trees retained Yerbillion Tank & PS 03, which provide alternative, neighbouring significant habitat for Carnaby's Cockatoo.

Southern Whiteface (*Aphelocephala leucopsis*)

Southern whiteface is considered likely to pass through the DE as previous records exist, and there is 8.44 ha of suitable habitat expected to be impacted by the proposed action. The species range occurs across a band across most of mainland Australia, from the northeastern edge of the Western Australian wheatbelt, east to the Great Dividing Range (Schodde & Mason 1999). This species is likely to pass through the survey area, but the species range is large and there is better habitat outside of the proposed action. The

species are able to mobilise to surroundings areas; no records of Southern Whiteface were recorded during the surveys; and condition of vegetation is predominately degraded land, followed by good, with no better condition recorded. (**Att G – Figure 7 - Southern Whiteface Foraging Habitat**)

4.1.4.4 Do you consider this likely direct and/or indirect impact to be a Significant Impact?

*

No

4.1.4.6 Describe why you do not consider this to be a Significant Impact. *

An environmental impact assessment on potential impacts to Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES) from the proposed action was been undertaken in accordance with the *Matters of National Environmental Significance – Significant Impact Guidelines 1.1* (Department of the Environment (DoE), 2013) and *Referral guideline for 3 WA threatened black cockatoo species: Carnaby's Cockatoo, Baudin's Cockatoo and the Forest Red-tailed Black- cockatoo* (DAWE, 2022). The MNES considered in this referral include:

- Listed threatened species and communities (Sections 18 and 18A).
- Listed migratory species (Sections 20 and 20A).

The assessment undertaken concluded that there are no significant impacts to MNES from the proposed action and considers the action to be “not a controlled action”.

Refer to **Att J – GAWS Yerbillion EPBC Act Referral – Significant Impact Assessment** for the assessment of significant impact.

4.1.4.7 Do you think your proposed action is a controlled action? *

No

4.1.4.9 Please elaborate why you do not think your proposed action is a controlled action.

*

Refer to **Att J – GAWS Yerbillion EPBC Act Referral – Significant Impact Assessment** for the assessment of significant impact.

4.1.4.10 Please describe any avoidance or mitigation measures proposed for this action and attach any supporting documentation for these avoidance and mitigation measures. *

Water Corporation has designed the pipeline alignment with a primary objective to minimise clearing and impacts to environmental values, via avoidance and utilising cleared, predominately agricultural land where possible. Water Corporation is committed to avoiding clearing of suitable breeding and roosting trees for Carnaby's Cockatoo and TEC by excising these trees and TEC from the proposed action DE. A total of 9.55 ha of TEC has been avoided and is located outside of the DE. This includes avoidance of a patch of TEC (2.17 ha) within the survey area. A total 7 suitable breeding trees with hollows and 44 suitable roosting trees at Walgoolan PS 01 & 02 and 21 suitable breeding trees with hollows and 85 suitable roosting trees at Yerbillion Tank & PS 03 were avoided.

An Environmental Management Plan (**Att L – Environmental Management Plan**) has been prepared to mitigate impacts to threatened species and the Eucalypt Woodlands of the Western Australian Wheatbelt TEC.

4.1.4.11 Please describe any proposed offsets and attach any supporting documentation relevant to these measures. *

Not applicable. No offsets are proposed as the proposed action is not likely to have significant residual impacts on MNES.

4.1.5 Migratory Species

You have identified your proposed action will likely directly and/or indirectly impact the following protected matters.

A direct impact is a direct consequence of an action taken – for example, clearing of habitat for a threatened species or permanent shading on an ecological community as the result of installing solar panels.

An indirect impact is an 'indirect consequence' such as a downstream impact or a facilitated third-party action.

Direct impact	Indirect impact	Species	Common name
No	No	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	Common Sandpiper
No	No	<i>Apus pacificus</i>	Fork-tailed Swift
No	No	<i>Calidris acuminata</i>	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper
No	No	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>	Curlew Sandpiper
No	No	<i>Calidris melanotos</i>	Pectoral Sandpiper
No	No	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	Grey Wagtail

4.1.5.1 Is the proposed action likely to have any direct and/or indirect impact on any of these protected matters? *

No

4.1.5.3 Briefly describe why your action is unlikely to have a direct and/or indirect impact.

*

The desktop search results indicated the likelihood for migratory birds to occur within the proposed action, including the Fork-tailed Swift (*Apus pacificus*) listed as migratory marine bird as likely to occur within area.

The Fork-tailed Swift is almost exclusively aerial, flying from less than 1 m to at least 300 m above ground and probably much higher. In Australia, they mostly occur over inland plains but sometimes above foothills or in coastal areas. They often occur over cliffs and beaches and also over islands and sometimes well out to sea. They also occur over settled areas, including towns, urban areas and cities. They mostly occur over dry or open habitats, including riparian woodland and tea-tree swamps, low scrub, heathland or saltmarsh. They are also found at treeless grassland and sandplains covered with spinifex, open farmland and inland and coastal sand-dunes. The sometimes occur above rainforests, wet sclerophyll forest or open forest or plantations of pines (Higgins 1999). This species is likely to pass through the proposed action as previous records exist as the nearest record is 1.4 km south (GHD, 2024).

The proposed activities are unlikely to impact birds in flight. The hectares of disturbance to native vegetation for foraging habitat is relatively small compared to the range extent of migratory species, suitable surrounding vegetation and opportunity for migratory birds to use neighbouring native vegetation outside of the proposed action. Post construction, native vegetation which has been cleared for the proposed action will be revegetated (leaving a service corridor for maintenance) and post-vegetation, habitat for foraging migratory birds will be reinstated.

4.1.6 Nuclear

4.1.6.1 Is the proposed action likely to have any direct and/or indirect impact on this protected matter? *

No

4.1.6.3 Briefly describe why your action is unlikely to have a direct and/or indirect impact.

*

The proposed action does not involve a nuclear action.

4.1.7 Commonwealth Marine Area

You have identified your proposed action will likely directly and/or indirectly impact the following protected matters.

A direct impact is a direct consequence of an action taken – for example, clearing of habitat for a threatened species or permanent shading on an ecological community as the result of installing solar panels.

An indirect impact is an 'indirect consequence' such as a downstream impact or a facilitated third-party action.

—

4.1.7.1 Is the proposed action likely to have any direct and/or indirect impact on any of these protected matters? *

No

4.1.7.3 Briefly describe why your action is unlikely to have a direct and/or indirect impact.

*

The proposed action is not located within or nearby any Commonwealth Marine Areas.

4.1.8 Great Barrier Reef

4.1.8.1 Is the proposed action likely to have any direct and/or indirect impact on this protected matter? *

No

4.1.8.3 Briefly describe why your action is unlikely to have a direct and/or indirect impact.

*

The proposed action is not located within or near the Great Barrier Reef.

4.1.9 Water resource in relation to large coal mining development or coal seam gas

4.1.9.1 Is the proposed action likely to have any direct and/or indirect impact on this protected matter? *

No

4.1.9.3 Briefly describe why your action is unlikely to have a direct and/or indirect impact.

*

The proposed action does not involve coal mining or coal seam gas.

4.1.10 Commonwealth Land

You have identified your proposed action will likely directly and/or indirectly impact the following protected matters.

A direct impact is a direct consequence of an action taken – for example, clearing of habitat for a threatened species or permanent shading on an ecological community as the result of installing solar panels.

An indirect impact is an 'indirect consequence' such as a downstream impact or a facilitated third-party action.

—

4.1.10.1 Is the proposed action likely to have any direct and/or indirect impact on any of these protected matters? *

No

4.1.10.3 Briefly describe why your action is unlikely to have a direct and/or indirect impact. *

The proposed action is not located on Commonwealth Land.

4.1.11 Commonwealth Heritage Places Overseas

You have identified your proposed action will likely directly and/or indirectly impact the following protected matters.

A direct impact is a direct consequence of an action taken – for example, clearing of habitat for a threatened species or permanent shading on an ecological community as the result of installing solar panels.

An indirect impact is an 'indirect consequence' such as a downstream impact or a facilitated third-party action.

—

4.1.11.1 Is the proposed action likely to have any direct and/or indirect impact on any of these protected matters? *

No

4.1.11.3 Briefly describe why your action is unlikely to have a direct and/or indirect impact. *

The proposed action is not located on any overseas Commonwealth heritage places.

4.1.12 Commonwealth or Commonwealth Agency

4.1.12.1 Is the proposed action to be taken by the Commonwealth or a Commonwealth Agency? *

No

4.2 Impact summary

Conclusion on the likelihood of significant impacts

You have indicated that the proposed action will likely have a significant impact on the following Matters of National Environmental Significance:

None

Conclusion on the likelihood of unlikely significant impacts

You have indicated that the proposed action will unlikely have a significant impact on the following Matters of National Environmental Significance:

- World Heritage (S12)
- National Heritage (S15B)
- Ramsar Wetland (S16)
- Threatened Species and Ecological Communities (S18)
- Migratory Species (S20)
- Nuclear (S21)
- Commonwealth Marine Area (S23)
- Great Barrier Reef (S24B)
- Water resource in relation to large coal mining development or coal seam gas (S24D)
- Commonwealth Land (S26)
- Commonwealth Heritage Places Overseas (S27B)
- Commonwealth or Commonwealth Agency (S28)

4.3 Alternatives

4.3.1 Do you have any possible alternatives for your proposed action to be considered as part of your referral? *

No

4.3.8 Describe why alternatives for your proposed action were not possible. *

The DE of the proposed action has undergone a series of reviews and modifications during its planning and scoping phases to establish avoidance and mitigation measures aimed at eliminating, reducing, or minimising the need for, and the extent of, the proposed clearing of native vegetation. The location of clearing was selected to be located alongside the existing GAWS main conduit pipeline to minimise clearing and to enable the replacement pipeline to tie into the existing main conduit to allow for progressive replacement over 50 years.

Water Corporation has designed the pipeline alignment with a primary objective to minimise clearing and impacts to environmental values, via avoidance and utilising cleared, predominately agricultural land where possible. Water Corporation has designed the pipeline alignment so that it is located on predominately cleared land, and where clearing is proposed, utilising degraded vegetation. Water Corporation is committed to avoiding clearing of suitable breeding and roosting trees for Carnaby's Cockatoo and TEC by excising these trees and TEC from the proposed action DE. A total of 9.55 ha of TEC has been avoided and is located outside of the DE. This includes avoidance of a patch of TEC (2.17ha) within the survey area. A total 7 suitable breeding trees with hollows and 44 suitable roosting trees at Walgoolan PS 01 & 02 and 21 suitable breeding trees with hollows and 85 suitable roosting trees at Yerbillion Tank & PS 03 were avoided.

5. Lodgement

5.1 Attachments

1.2.5 Information about the staged development

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att A - Figure 1 Disturbance Envelope.pdf Figure outlining Disturbance Envelope (DE)	02/04/2025	No	High

1.2.6 Commonwealth or state legislation, planning frameworks or policy documents that are relevant to the proposed action

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att J - GAWS Yerbillion EPBC Act Referral - Significant Impact Assessment.pdf GAWS Yerbillion EPBC Act Referral - Significant Impact Assessment	02/04/2025		High

1.3.2.18 (Person proposing to take the action) If the person proposing to take the action is a corporation, provide details of the corporation's environmental policy and planning framework

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att H - Environment Policy.pdf Environment Policy	03/04/2025	No	High

3.1.1 Current condition of the project area's environment

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att A - Figure 1 Disturbance Envelope.pdf Figure outlining Disturbance Envelope (DE)	03/04/2025	No	High
#2.	Document	Att C - Figure 3 Vegetation Communities.pdf Figure 3 Vegetation Communities	02/04/2025	No	High
#3.	Document	Att D - Figure 4 Vegetation Condition.pdf Figure 4 Vegetation Condition	02/04/2025	No	High
#4.	Document	Att E - Figure 5 Eucalypt Woodlands of the Western Australian Wheatbelt TEC.pdf Figure 5 - Eucalypt Woodlands of the Western Australian Wheatbelt TEC	02/04/2025	No	High
#5.	Document	Att K - Biological Survey Report_Part 1.pdf Biological Survey. Due to size of document, it has been broken into parts. (please contact for transfer of 1 document)	02/04/2025	No	High

3.2.1 Flora and fauna within the affected area

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att B - Figure 2 Fauna Habitats.pdf Fauna Habitats mapping	02/04/2025	No	High
#2.	Document	Att I - PMST Search Results.pdf PMST Search Results	03/04/2025	No	High
#3.	Document	Att K - Biological Survey Report_Part 1.pdf Biological Survey. Due to size of document, it has been broken into parts. (please contact for transfer of 1 document) No sensitive locations in this part of the Biological Survey.	03/04/2025	No	High
#4.	Document	Att K - Biological Survey Report_Part 2_Figure 2 Environmental Constraints .pdf continuation of biological survey. redacted version provided.	03/04/2025	Yes	High
#5.	Document	Att K - Biological Survey Report_Part 2_Figure 2 Environmental Constraints _Redacted.pdf Att K - Biological Survey Report_Part 2_Figure 2 Environmental Constraints with sensitive data redacted	03/04/2025	No	High
#6.	Document	Att K - Biological Survey Report_Part 7_Figure 7 Black Cockatoo Habitat.pdf Part 7 of the Biological Survey - please contact for single document	03/04/2025	No	High
#7.	Document	Table 1 Fauna Habitat.pdf Table 1 - Fauna Habitat	03/04/2025	No	High

3.2.2 Vegetation within the project area

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att C - Figure 3 Vegetation Communities.pdf Figure 3 Vegetation Communities	03/04/2025	No	High
#2.	Document	Att D - Figure 4 Vegetation Condition.pdf Figure 4 Vegetation Condition	03/04/2025	No	High
#3.	Document	Att E - Figure 5 Eucalypt Woodlands of the Western Australian Wheatbelt TEC.pdf	03/04/2025	No	High

Figure 5 - Eucalypt Woodlands of the Western Australian Wheatbelt TEC

#4.	Document	Table 2 - Vegetation Communities.pdf Table 2 - Vegetation Communities	03/04/2025	No	High
#5.	Document	Table 3 -Vegetation Condition.pdf Table 3 -Vegetation Condition	03/04/2025	No	High

4.1.4.2 (Threatened Species and Ecological Communities) Why your action has a direct and/or indirect impact on the identified protected matters

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att B - Figure 2 Fauna Habitats.pdf Fauna Habitats mapping	03/04/2025	No	High
#2.	Document	Att F - Figure 6 Black Cockatoo Habitat.pdf Figure 6 Black Cockatoo Habitat	03/04/2025	No	High
#3.	Document	Att G - Figure 7 Southern Whiteface foraging habitat.pdf Figure 7 Southern Whiteface foraging habitat	03/04/2025	No	High
#4.	Document	Table 4 - Environmental values for threatened species.pdf Table 4 - Environmental values for threatened species	03/04/2025	No	High

4.1.4.6 (Threatened Species and Ecological Communities) Why you do not consider the direct and/or indirect impact to be a Significant Impact

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att J - GAWS Yerbillion EPBC Act Referral - Significant Impact Assessment.pdf GAWS Yerbillion EPBC Act Referral - Significant Impact Assessment	02/04/2025		High

4.1.4.9 (Threatened Species and Ecological Communities) Why you do not think your proposed action is a controlled action

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att J - GAWS Yerbillion EPBC Act Referral - Significant Impact Assessment.pdf GAWS Yerbillion EPBC Act Referral - Significant Impact Assessment	03/04/2025	No	High

4.1.4.10 (Threatened Species and Ecological Communities) Avoidance or mitigation measures proposed for this action

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
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#1.	Document	Att L - Environmental Management Plan.pdf Att L – Environmental Management Plan	03/04/2025	High
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5.2 Declarations

✔ Completed Referring party's declaration

The Referring party is the person preparing the information in this referral.

ABN/ACN	28003434917
Organisation name	WATER CORPORATION
Organisation address	629 Newcastle Street, Leederville WA 6007
Representative's name	Lisa Wynne
Representative's job title	Team Leader - Environmental Approvals
Phone	(08) 9420 2843
Email	environment@watercorporation.com.au
Address	629 Newcastle Street, Leederville WA 6007

☒ Check this box to indicate you have read the referral form. *

☒ I would like to receive notifications and track the referral progress through the EPBC portal. *

☒ By checking this box, I, **Lisa Wynne of WATER CORPORATION**, declare that to the best of my knowledge the information I have given on, or attached to this EPBC Act Referral is complete, current and correct. I understand that giving false or misleading information is a serious offence. *

☒ I would like to receive notifications and track the referral progress through the EPBC portal. *

✔ Completed Person proposing to take the action's declaration

The Person proposing to take the action is the individual, business, government agency or trustee that will be responsible for the proposed action.

Same as Referring party information.

☒ Check this box to indicate you have read the referral form. *

☒ I would like to receive notifications and track the referral progress through the EPBC portal. *

☒ I, **Lisa Wynne of WATER CORPORATION**, declare that to the best of my knowledge the information I have given on, or attached to the EPBC Act Referral is complete, current and correct. I understand that giving false or misleading information is a serious offence. I declare that I am not taking the action on behalf or for the benefit of any other person or entity. *

☒ I, **Lisa Wynne of WATER CORPORATION**, the Person proposing the action, consent to the designation of **Carlos Castellanos of WATER CORPORATION** as the Proposed designated proponent for the purposes of the action described in this EPBC Act Referral. *

☒ I would like to receive notifications and track the referral progress through the EPBC portal. *

☒ Completed Proposed designated proponent's declaration

The Proposed designated proponent is the individual or organisation proposed to be responsible for meeting the requirements of the EPBC Act during the assessment process, if the Minister decides that this project is a controlled action.

ABN/ACN	28003434917
Organisation name	WATER CORPORATION
Organisation address	629 Newcastle Street, Leederville WA 6007
Representative's name	Carlos Castellanos
Representative's job title	Senior Project Manager, Assets Delivery
Phone	0457 524 783
Email	carlos.castellanos@watercorporation.com.au
Address	629 Newcastle Street, Leederville WA 6007

☒ Check this box to indicate you have read the referral form. *

☒ I would like to receive notifications and track the referral progress through the EPBC portal. *

☒ I, **Carlos Castellanos of WATER CORPORATION**, the Proposed designated proponent, consent to the designation of myself as the Proposed designated proponent for the purposes of the action described in this EPBC Act Referral. *

☒ I would like to receive notifications and track the referral progress through the EPBC portal. *

